



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

M

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/754,367	01/05/2001	Tsutomu Inoue	107101-00027	6189

4372 7590 05/11/2004

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

CASAREGOLA, LOUIS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3746

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/754,367

Applicant(s)

INOUE, TSUTOMU

Examiner

Louis J. Casaregola

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Restriction Requirement

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 USC 121:

I. Claims 1-9 drawn to a gas turbine control system (subcombination) classified in Class 60, subclass 39.281,

II. Claims 10-15 drawn to a gas turbine control system along with venturi apparatus (combination) classified in Class 60, subclass 39.27, and

III. Claims 16-24 drawn to a gas turbine control method classified in Class 60, subclass 773.

The inventions of Groups I-III above are distinct for the following reasons:

The inventions of Groups I and II are mutually distinct because the Group II combination does not require all pertinent details of the Group I subcombination; claims 10 and 12 serve as evidence claims to support this point (MPEP 806.05(c)(III)). Furthermore, the Group I subcombination has separate utility since the claimed control system could be used with combustion devices that do not employ venturi-type fuel and air mixing apparatus as described in the Group II combination.

The invention of Group III is also distinct from those of Groups I and II because the Group III method could be practiced with apparatus materially different than that in either of the other groups. The claimed method could, for example, be practiced using a simplified system without the automated control apparatus (calculating means, fuel regulating means, etc.) specified in Group I since the various calculating and regulating


Art Unit: 3746

functions could be performed manually by a plant operator. Furthermore, the claimed method could be practiced using alternative fuel and air supply apparatus without the particular venturi structure specified in Group II.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and require separate classification and/or divergent fields of search, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that even in the event that the restriction requirement is traversed, the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined. (Note that in this instance, the undersigned was unable to make contact with applicant's attorney for the purpose of offering the option of a telephone election).

L. J. Casaregola
703-308-1027 (M-F; 7:30-4:00)
703-872-9306 FAX
May 10, 2004


LOUIS J. CASAREGOLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu, can be reached at 703-308-2675.

Information regarding the status of this application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR, and status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).